

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA DIVISION

LEROY JACKSON, on behalf of himself	)	
and all others similarly situated,	)	Civil Action No.
	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
	)	
	)	
FIRE OF BRAZIL II, LLC d/b/a	)	
JALAPENO CHARLIE’S,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

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**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

COMES NOW Plaintiff LeRoy Jackson (hereinafter “Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself and others similarly situated, and files this lawsuit against Defendant Jalapeno Charlie’s (hereinafter “Defendant”), and shows the following:

**I. Nature of Complaint**

1.

Plaintiff brings this action to obtain full and complete relief and to redress the unlawful employment practices described herein. Plaintiff brings this action as the representative party for all similarly situated employees of Defendant.

2.

This action seeks declaratory relief, liquidated and actual damages for Defendant's failure to pay federally mandated overtime wages to Plaintiff and the Collective Class in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §201 *et seq.* (hereinafter "FLSA") during Plaintiff's employment with Defendant (hereinafter referred to as the "relevant time period").

## **II. Jurisdiction and Venue**

3.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b), and 28 U.S.C. §1343(4).

4.

Defendant Fire of Brazil II, LLC d/b/a Jalapeno Charlie's is a Georgia corporation, and the unlawful employment practices described herein occurred at 218 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA, 30303. Accordingly, venue in this Court is proper pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b); LR 3, Northern District of Georgia.

## **III. Parties**

5.

Plaintiff is a male citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Georgia.

6.

Plaintiff worked for the Defendant from 2009 through September 27, 2013 as a waiter and bartender.

7.

Plaintiff was an “employee” (as defined under FLSA §3(e), 29 U.S.C. §203(e)) for Defendants.

8.

Plaintiff performed non-exempt labor for the Defendant within the last three years.

9.

Defendant employed Plaintiff during the relevant time period.

10.

At times during the last three years, Defendant employed more than 20 waiters and servers out of its location on 218 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA, 30303.

11.

During the relevant time period, Plaintiff worked an amount of time that was more than forty (40) hours per workweek and was not paid the overtime wage differential for each hour worked over forty (40) in a workweek.

12.

Defendant Jalapeno Charlie's is a private employer engaged in interstate commerce, and its gross revenues exceed \$500,000 per year.

13.

Jalapeno Charlie's is an "employer" within the definition of FLSA §3(d), 29 U.S.C. §203(d).

14.

Defendant is governed by and subject to FLSA §7, 29 U.S.C. §204 and §207 and FLSA §6, 29 U.S.C. §206.

15.

Defendant Jalapeno Charlie's has employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, or has employees handling, selling or otherwise working on goods or materials that have been moved in or produced for commerce, including but not limited to restaurant supplies and food.

16.

Defendant can be served through its Registered Agent, Wilma A. Gilbertson, at 9690 Cove Court, Roswell, Georgia 30075.

#### **IV. Facts**

17.

Plaintiff worked for the Defendant within the past three years.

18.

Plaintiff was hired by Defendant in 2009 as a waiter and bartender.

19.

Plaintiff's primary job duties included setting the restaurant and bar for service, taking orders from customers, bringing food and drink to tables, receiving payment for the bill from customers, bartending, cleaning the bar, and helping to close the restaurant.

20.

Plaintiff's primary tasks did not require the exercise of discretion and independent judgment.

21.

Plaintiff worked an average of forty-five to fifty-five hours per week and was not paid an overtime differential for hours worked over forty.

22.

On occasions when Plaintiff would work over forty hours in a work week, Plaintiff's managers would change his time cards to reflect that Plaintiff had worked less than forty hours.

23.

Plaintiff was instructed by his managers to work off the clock.

24.

Plaintiff was paid at the rate of \$2.50 per hour.

25.

During Plaintiff's employment with the Defendants, Plaintiff was not paid the overtime wage differential required by FLSA §7, 29 U.S.C. §207 on the occasions that Plaintiff worked over forty (40) hours in a workweek.

## **V. Collective Class Allegations**

26.

Plaintiff brings Count I of this Complaint on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated individuals pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). Plaintiff and the similarly situated individuals are individuals who currently or formerly have been employed by Defendant during the last three (3) years, and whose primary job duty was to serve customers at Defendant's restaurant.

27.

During the last three years, Plaintiff and the Collective Class were not paid an overtime differential for hours worked over forty in a work week while performing the duties of a waiter or bartender.

28.

During the last three years, Plaintiff and the Collective Class routinely worked in excess of (40) hours per workweek without receiving overtime compensation for hours they worked over 40 hours in given work weeks while performing the duties of a waiter or bartender.

29.

Defendant was aware that Plaintiff and the Collective Class were working in excess of 40 hours in given workweeks without receiving overtime compensation.

30.

During the last three years, Defendant failed to keep accurate time records for all hours worked by Plaintiff and the Collective Class.

31.

During the last three years, Plaintiff and the Collective Class regularly worked off of the clock at the instruction of management.

32.

Jalapeno Charlie's waiters and bartenders, including Plaintiff, are entitled to the overtime pay differential for the hours they worked over (40) in given workweeks. Defendant's practices violate the provisions of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq.. As a result of Defendant's unlawful practices, Plaintiff and the Collective Class have suffered lost wages.

**VI. Violation of the Overtime Wage Requirement of the Fair Labor Standards Act (Plaintiff and Collective Class).**

33.

Defendant has violated FLSA §7, 29 U.S.C. §207, by failing to pay overtime wages for time that Plaintiff and the Collective Class worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek.

34.

Defendant suffered and permitted Plaintiff and the Collective Class to routinely work more than forty (40) hours per week without overtime compensation.

35.

Defendant's actions, policies and/or practices violate the FLSA's overtime requirement by regularly and repeatedly failing to compensate Plaintiff and the Collective Class at the required overtime rate.



36.

Defendant knew, or showed reckless disregard for the fact that it failed to pay these individuals overtime compensation in violation of the FLSA.

37.

Defendant failed to accurately report, record and/or preserve records of hours worked by Plaintiff and the Collective Class, and thus has failed to make, keep and preserve records with respect to each of their employees sufficient to determine their wages, hours and other conditions and practices of employment, in violation of the FLSA.

38.

Defendant's conduct was willful and in bad faith.

39.

Pursuant to FLSA §16, 29 U.S.C. §216, Plaintiff brings this lawsuit to recover overtime wage differential, liquidated damages in an equal amount, attorneys' fees, and the costs of this litigation.

## **VII. Prayer for Relief**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

(A) Grant Plaintiff a trial by jury as to all triable issues of fact;

- (B) Enter judgment awarding Plaintiff unpaid wages pursuant to the FLSA §6, 29 U.S.C. §206, FLSA §7, 29 U.S.C. §207, FLSA § 6, 29 U.S.C. § 206(d), liquidated damages as provided by 29 U.S.C. §216, pre-judgment interest on unpaid wages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216, and court costs, expert witness fees, reasonable attorneys' fees as provided under FLSA §16 and all other remedies allowed under the FLSA;
- (C) Grant conditional certification and provide notice of this action to all similarly situated individuals;
- (D) Grant declaratory judgment declaring that Plaintiff's rights have been violated;
- (E) Award Plaintiff such further and additional relief as may be just and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted the 21st day of January, 2014.

s/ Abigail J. Larimer  
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